

North Northamptonshire Local Area Energy Plan FAQs

Q: The specification references the Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUE), Could you please expand on the level of work expected here, in terms of scope and extent of works.

A: SUEs are generally more than 1,000 homes with employment, local amenities and other uses including local greenspaces. SUEs are located adjacent to all the larger towns in North Northamptonshire. The area is also a major hub for logistics and distribution related development. Logistics parks are generally low-density developments consisting of large warehouses with up to 1m square feet of floorspace. We expect the LAEP to identify and recommend the type of measures that could be incorporated into these new developments with supporting rationale. It is anticipated that solutions may vary depending on the scale, location, and form of new development. Housing infill schemes will generally be much smaller with less scope for local amenities and greenspace provision.

Q: Could you please clarify whether the LAEP needs to be delivered in accordance with the ESC guidance on a LAEP? Would you be open to a streamlined approach?

A: We are expecting a full LAEP i.e., delivery of all 7 stages as outlined within the ESC guidance. As noted in the specification, the Council already holds data from ESC, which should streamline delivery. In terms of stakeholder engagement, we are only looking to do engagement with primary stakeholders, a robust public consultation will not be necessary. We are open to proposals on how the process could be streamlined.

Q: At 4.2.6, there are several references to assessments and recommendations on specific technologies or delivery mechanisms, could you please expand on what is expected here?

A: This section outlines scenarios for technical analysis; we do not expect every metric to be covered; however, consideration should be given to those factors directly related to decarbonisation. Scenarios will be agreed with primary stakeholders and must consider both varying options to enable Net Zero in the North Northants area, and assess uncertainty in modelling, including uncertainty in future policy.

Q: Could you expand on the requirements for the final report in relation to the format and the Council's accessibility criteria?

A: The final report must be a Word document that is designed in web-friendly and accessible way. It should include supporting text, tables, graphs, and images as required. All charts, graphs, and images should include alternative text and must adhere to the Council's accessibility criteria for web hosted documents. [WCAG 2.2 AA standards should be followed](#). The Council's web team will undertake an accessibility check on all parts of the report, to include charts, tables, graphic etc. Additional guidance can be found [here](#). In addition, the successful supplier will be provided with an internal guidance document produced by our web team.

Q: What is the expected output from Section 2.6? It reads as though a NZ Home specification is required.

A: Yes, we would expect a specification for NZ home and community scale solutions for larger developments such as SUEs or logistics parks.

Q: Is the Retrofit Action Plan complete/published?

A: We do not have a complete/ published Retrofit Action Plan. What is referenced in the tender document relates to the need for coordination with relevant local retrofit workstreams.

Q: How important are water/wastewater/waste?

A: Water, wastewater, and waste are importance considerations in relation to alternative energy sources i.e., Biogas and waste to energy. As such, they should be considered, but a light touch here is sufficient.

Q: Would they consider moving the Outline Business Plan to an additional piece of work with additional budget?

A: No. The Outline Business Case mentioned in the Statement of Requirement (4.1.7) is in reference to the LAEP report findings, it is not a separate document. As such, there is no additional budget to produce this document.

Q: What's the expectation on the 2030 interim targets given the extensive climate action plan

A: The expectation for the 2030 interim targets is to deliver the required levels of change and consider potential scenarios and related trajectories for change. The LAEP must propose future scenarios to include at least two nationally consistent scenarios in line with HM Treasury Green Book approach, to include modelling of locally derived additional scenarios i.e., by 2040, aligning with the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Net Zero goals.

Q: Is there an expected format / output for the Outline Business Case i.e. does it follow the Green Book format or does the Council have its own format

A: The Green Book guidance is sufficient; however, it is recommend that the final LAEP include an executive summary; details of the context for the LAEP (such as geographical area covered, current emissions, stakeholders involved), and an assessment of options for the Future Scenarios – describe the methods used to model the local area, identify potential interventions and pathways to net zero.

Q: Is the Outline Business Case expected for the full LAEP or specific individual projects?

A: Yes, a full report is expected for the LAEP which should include all metrics outlined within the specification. This is not a separate report, it is the final Local Area Energy Plan report. The scope is outlined within the specification.

Q: Explain the speed of deployment, particularly from evaluation of bids to contract award to contract start. Are you aware of why the timescale is relatively tight and any circumstances where it may be changed at short notice?

A: The evaluation and contract award dates are outlined in the Request for Quotation. The dates outlined are the dates that we are working toward, i.e., contract award by 16th May 2025. The timescale is tight because we have a deadline to produce a Net Zero Action Plan for North Northants, and recommendations from the LAEP will feed into that document. We

would also like the LAEP findings to feed into the Regional Energy Security Plan for the Central England region, formally England's Economic Heartland.

Q: Also are you able to share the Energy Systems Catapult Baseline Bundle data (or at least its format)?

A: The baseline bundle will be shared with the successful Supplier during the data collection phase. The data is collated by type in an Excel spreadsheet.

Q: Please can you clarify if the specification requires a full LAEP process to be undertaken, e.g. stages 1-7 according to the Energy Systems Catapult process, or just stages 1-3?

A: We require a full LAEP to be undertaken, stages 1-7 as per ESC guidance.

Q: Paragraph 4.1.1. states that the Council's Baseline Bundle data should be utilised for the data pertaining to stages 1-3. Would you anticipate any further data collection requirements for these stages?

A: Yes, some additional data collection will be required to obtain data from the DSO/ DNO and other key stakeholders, as well as any other missing datasets the Supplier deems necessary to produce a robust LAEP.

Q: Can you please confirm the weighting scheme?

A: The weighting scheme is as follows:

QUALITY QUESTIONS (80%)		
Provision of the Requirement (80%)		
1	Understanding of the project requirements and approach	25%
2	Experience of delivering similar Local Area Energy Plans and knowledge sector emission calculations	25%
3	Team skills and experience	20%
4	Project plan	10%
PRICING (20%)		
A	Total Cost	20%
Grand Total		100%